

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding non-final Office Action mailed June 5, 2003. Upon entry of the amendments in this response, claims 2 – 6, 8 – 12, 14 and 16 - 23 remain pending. In particular, Applicants have added claims 21 - 23, have amended claims 2 – 6, 8 – 10, 12 and 18, and have canceled claims 1, 7, 13 and 15 without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer. Applicants have canceled claims 1, 7, 13 and 15 merely to reduce the number of disputed issues and to facilitate early allowance and issuance of other claims in the present application. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of these canceled claims in a continuing application, if Applicants so choose, and do not intend to dedicate the canceled subject matter to the public. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and presently pending claims are respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

The Office Action indicates that claims 13, 18 and 19 stand objected to because of various informalities. As set forth above, Applicants have canceled claim 13 and respectfully assert that the rejection as to this claim has been rendered moot. With respect to the objection of claim 18, Applicants have amended that claim and respectfully assert that the objection has been accommodated. Applicants respectfully assert that the amendment to claim 18 also corrects the objection to claim 19, which depends from claim 18.

In the Drawings

The Office Action indicates that the drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). Although Applicants respectfully assert that the features originally cited in claim 13 were presented in FIG. 3, Applicants have canceled claim 13 and respectfully assert, therefore, that the objection has been rendered moot.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Office Action indicates that claims 1 – 11 and 12 – 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over *Popovich* in view of the patent *De Vre*. As set forth above, Applicants have canceled claims 1, 7, 13 and 15 and respectfully assert that the rejection as to these claims has been rendered moot. With respect to the remaining claims, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection for at least the reasons indicated below.

In this regard, claim 2 recites:

2. An optical system comprising:
an optical device including a first para-electric holographic medium, said first holographic medium storing a first hologram, said first hologram having a first active mode, said first hologram exhibiting said first active mode when a first electric field is applied to said first holographic medium, in said first active mode said first hologram being adapted to direct light incident upon said first para-electric holographic medium to a first location, ***the first location being arranged off an optical axis of said optical device;***
wherein said optical device is adapted to selectively direct light between said first location and a second location arranged along said optical axis, said optical device being operative as a switch such that an information signal carried by the light and propagated to said optical device is selectively directed to either the first location or the second location by the optical device
(Emphasis Added)

Applicants respectfully assert that the asserted combination does not teach or reasonably suggest at least the features/limitations emphasized above in claim 2. Specifically, Applicants respectfully assert that the combination does not teach or reasonably suggest “said optical device being operative as a switch such that an information signal carried by the light and propagated to said optical device is selectively directed to either the first location or the second location by the optical device.” Further, Applicants respectfully assert that the combination does not render obvious “the first location being arranged off an optical axis of said device and the “second location arranged along said optical axis.” Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that the rejection has been rendered moot and that claim 2 is in condition for allowance. Since claims 3 – 6, 8 – 10 and 21 and 22 depend either directly or indirectly

from claim 2 and, therefore, incorporate all the features/limitations of claim 2, Applicants respectfully assert that these claims also are in condition for allowance.

With respect to claim 12, that claim recites:

12. A method for selectively altering the propagation of light comprising:
providing a first para-electric holographic medium, the first para-electric holographic medium including a first hologram, the first hologram having a first active mode, in the first active mode the first hologram being adapted to direct light to a first location;
propagating light to the first para-electric holographic medium;
directing light to a second location with the first para-electric holographic medium;
setting the first hologram to the first active mode; and
directing light to the first location with the first hologram in the first active mode, the first location being different than the second location,
wherein the second location is located along an optical axis defined by the first para-electric holographic medium, and the first location is located off the optical axis.
(Emphasis Added).

Applicants respectfully assert that the combination is legally deficient for the purpose of rendering obvious claim 12, because at least the features/limitations emphasized above are not taught or reasonably suggested by the combination. Specifically, Applicants respectfully assert that the combination does not teach or reasonably suggest at least the features/limitations of “directing light to the first location with the first hologram and the first active mode, the first location being different than the second location, wherein the second location is located along an optical axis defined by the first para-electric holographic medium, and the first location is off the optical axis.” Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that claim 12 is in condition for allowance. Since claims 14, 16 – 20 and 23 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 12 and, therefore, incorporate all the features/limitations of claim 12, Applicants respectfully assert that these claims are in condition for allowance.

Newly Added Claims

Upon entry of the amendments in this Response, Applicants have added new claims 21 – 23. Applicants respectfully assert that these claims are in condition for allowance because they depend from a claim that is argued above as being in condition for allowance.

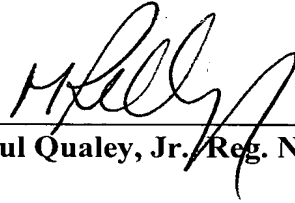
Prior Art Made of Record

The prior art made of record has been considered, but is not believed to affect the patentability of the presently pending claims.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that all objections and/or rejections have been traversed, rendered moot, and/or accommodated, and that the now pending claims 2 – 6, 8 – 12, 14 and 16 - 23 are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (770) 933-9500.

Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on 9/26/03.


Signature